

March 25, 2010  
AnGes MG, Inc.

New Medical-Use Patent for HGF Gene Granted in Japan  
- Covering Parkinson's Disease -

AnGes MG, Inc. announces that a patent for a therapeutic agent for Parkinson's Disease comprising HGF gene was granted in Japan (Patent No. 4441263).

Parkinson's Disease is the second most common degenerative disease of the central nervous system following Alzheimer's Disease. According to the result of an epidemiological survey conducted from 2000 to 2002 by a neurodegenerative diseases study group, the incidence of Parkinson's Disease in Japan is estimated to be 120 to 150 per 100,000 population. Based on this result and Japan's total population, the country has almost 200,000 patients with the disease. Among the so-called 130 intractable diseases designated by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Parkinson's Disease is the second most frequently diagnosed disease, following closely behind ulcerative colitis.

In most cases, Parkinson's Disease usually affects people in their 50's and 60's with typical symptoms such as tremors, muscle rigidity, slow movement, impairment of postural reflexes (prone to falling). Since its prevalence is high in the elderly, the number of the patients is expected to increase further as society continues to age. However, the current treatment options for Parkinson's Disease are largely symptomatic, and therefore, a fundamental treatment has been sought after.

The present invention pertains to a therapeutic agent for Parkinson's Disease that can restore and improve the function of degenerated nerve cells based on the growth-promoting effects/cell-death suppressing effects of HGF on nerve cells. The invention is expected to lead to the establishment of a fundamental treatment for Parkinson's Disease.

Since the incidence of the disease reported overseas is almost as high as in Japan, this invention has also been registered in Australia, and patent applications have been filed in the US, Europe, Canada and China.

Based on its comprehensive strategies centered on HGF gene, AnGes MG will continue to strive to gain patent rights on new indications for HGF gene therapy, following its ongoing project targeting peripheral arterial occlusive diseases.

This project will have no impact on the company's performance during the current fiscal year.